

35. NOTES ON TWO LESSER KNOWN *AGLAIA* (MELIACEAE) IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

(With two text-figures)

The genus *Aglaia* Lour. containing over 300 species (Airy Shaw, 1966), extends from China to Indo-Malesian, tropical Australian and Pacific regions of the world. Of these, over 23 species occur in India (Santapau & Henry, 1973) and 9 in the Andaman Nicobar Archipelago (Vasudeva Rao, 1986; Pannell, 1995). While Parkinson (1923) records 4 species of this genus and speaks of *A. argentea* Blume with some uncertainty, Vasudeva Rao (1986) lists 9 species from these Islands, including *A. argentea* Blume and *A. oligophylla* Miq. (*A. fusca* King), merely based on literature. Pannell (1995) emphasizes the occurrence of 9 species in the Andaman Nicobar Islands, out of 13 species, according to him, from India and over 105 species from the Malesian region.

While annotating the herbarium materials at PBL on Meliaceae, the authors noticed two unidentified *Aglaia* Lour., and subsequently Dr. C.M. Pannell of Oxford University confirmed them as *A. argentea* Blume and *A. oligophylla* Miq. As these species are insufficiently known from the archipelago and also poorly represented in the regional herbarium, PBL, brief botanical descriptions along with line drawings are provided to facilitate their identification and conservation.

Aglaia argentea Bl. Bijdr. 170: 1825; C.M. Pannell in *Fl. Malesiana* 12(1): 237. 1995 (Fig. 1).

Trees up to 30 m high. Leaves 10-20 x 4-6 cm. Leaflets 8-16, each 4-20 x 2-10 cm, silvery white beneath, lateral nerves 12-24 pairs, raised beneath. Flowers 2-4 x 1.5-2.5 mm. Fruits 3.0-3.5 x 2-3 cm, with 2-3 one seeded locules.

Fl. & Fr. April - June

Specimen examined: North Nicobar, Katchal, 4.v.1975 P. Chakraborty 2515 (PBL).

Distribution: Australia, Borneo, Java, Malesia, Nicobar Islands, Philippines, Solomon Island, Sumatra.

Uses: The timber is hard, heavy and durable, used for cabinets, furniture and construction.

Notes: This rare species could be easily identified by the silvery white undersurface of the leaflets.

Aglaia oligophylla Miq. Fl. Ind. Bot. Suppl. 507. 1861, *A. fusca* King J. Asiat. Soc. Beng. 64(2): 62. 1895; Parkinson *Fl. Andaman Islands*, 121. 1923 (Fig. 2).

Trees up to 20 m high with small buttresses. Leaves imparipinnate. Leaflets 3-11, each 4.5-22 x 2-9 cm. Inflorescence 10-20 cm long, 9-15 cm wide. Flowers 2.0 x 2.5 mm. Fruits 1-3 cm in diameter, subglobose; the pericarp brown or yellow, densely covered with pale, yellowish brown, stellate hairs on the outside. Locules 1 or 2, each contains 1 seed with a translucent white or brown aril.

Fl. & Fr. June - October.

Distribution: Andaman Islands, Borneo, Malesia, Peninsular Malaysia, Philippines, Sumatra, Thailand.

Uses: The sweet pulpy aril of the fruit is edible.

Notes: This species is similar to some *Reinwardtiadendron* sp., but differs by the features on the fruits and indumentum.

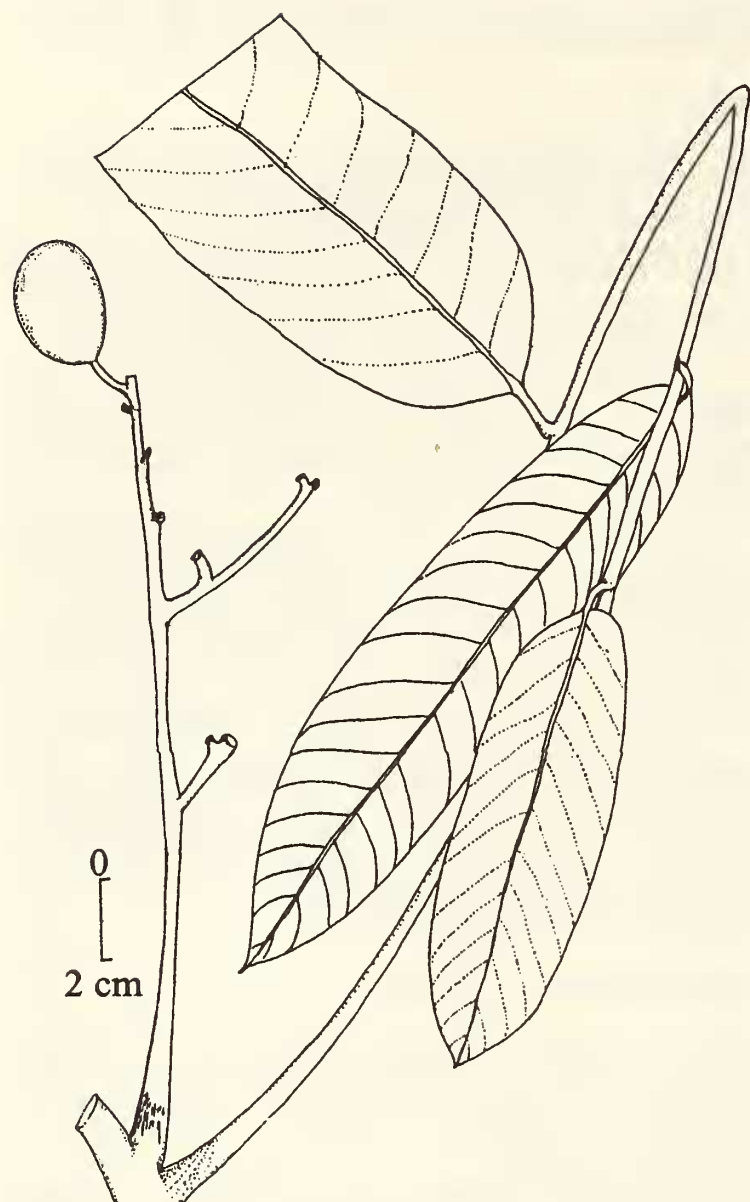
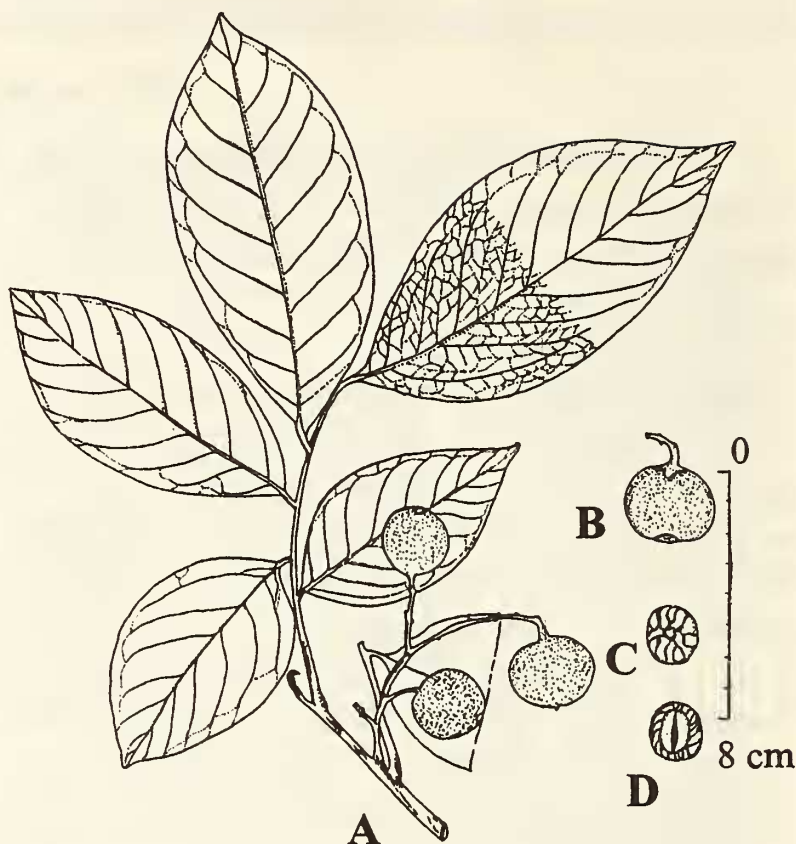
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. C.M. Pannell, Oxford University, for identifying the specimens. Thanks are also due to Dr. P.K. Hajra, Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Calcutta and Dr. P.S.N. Rao, Scientist-in-Charge, BSI, Port Blair for encouragement and facilities, and to Mr. L.N. Ray, Botanist, BSI, Port Blair for kindly sparing some of his material.

February 13, 1997

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Fig. 1: *Aglaia argentea* Bl.Fig. 2: *Aglaia oligophylla* Miq.
A. Habit B. Fruit C. Seed (dorsal view) D. Seed (ventral view)

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36. *CROTALARIA BURHIA* BUCH.-HAM. (FABACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR MAHARASHTRA

While botanizing in Wade, Jalgaon dist., Maharashtra, a curious undershrub caught my attention. On closer examination, it turned out to be *Crotalaria burhia* Buch.-Ham., a fabaceous taxon. It has not been reported from Maharashtra, and is being reported here for the first time. The taxon being a denizen of desert regions, occurs

in Baluchistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan (Sind) and part of India (Cooke, 1958). In India, it is distributed criss-crossing state boundaries like Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh (Bhandari, 1978). The present locality lies in the northwestern part of the Deccan Plateau of Maharashtra and is